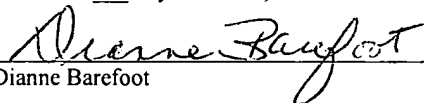


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 10/090683 Confirmation No.
In re application of: Schwarzwaldner
Filed: March 4, 2002
Group Art Unit: Unassigned
Examiner: Unassigned
Atty. Dkt. No.: 063799-0057
PTO Customer No. 26127
For: Polymer Component, Apparatus, and Method

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I hereby certify that this Reply Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail Number EU936173387US, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 17 day of March, 2004.


Dianne Barefoot

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows.
Applicant has requested a one month extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) for filing this response and authorizes that the associated fee be charged to deposit account 04-2223. If an additional extension of time or other fees are required, please consider this a request therefore and charge any additional fees which may be required to the deposit account.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendment to the Abstract begin on page 3 of this paper.

Amendment to the Claims begin on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.